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PATENT APPLICATION  
10/004,095

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

one or more line cards each operable to receive at least one packet comprising an identifier associated with at least one of a plurality of destination elements, each line card comprising control circuitry operable to generate a control signal comprising control information;

one or more optical transmitters each associated with one of the one or more line cards and each operable to generate at a specified wavelength an optical signal comprising at least a portion of the at least one packet received by the line card associated with that optical transmitter, the optical signal further comprising ~~and~~ at least a portion of the control information of the control signal ~~from generated by~~ the control circuitry of the line card associated with that optical transmitter; and

a receiver associated with one of the one or more line cards and operable to receive an upstream optical signal from the plurality of destination elements;

a star communicating fabric operable to receive the optical signals from the one or more optical transmitters and to communicate to each of the plurality of destination elements a substantially similar set of at least some of the optical signals, wherein the at least a portion of the control information of the optical signal is communicated to each of the plurality of destination elements through the star communicating fabric in a same direction as the optical signals;

wherein each of the plurality of destination elements comprise a filter coupled to a destination receiver and a destination transmitter, the destination receiver operable to receive at least a fraction of the optical signals, the destination elements operable to, based at least in part on the control information of the optical signal, ~~signal~~, perform an operation to generate the upstream optical signal that is transmitted by the destination transmitter, the destination elements coupled to the star communicating fabric, which communicates at least a fraction of the upstream optical signal to the receiver associated with the one of the line cards.